

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in Appendix A submitted herewith according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 11-13 are presently pending in the captioned application. Subsequent to the enclosed amendment, claims 5 and 11-13 are currently amended and claims 1-4 and 6-10 are cancelled as previously amended without disclaimer or prejudice as to the subject matter contained therein. New claim 14 has been added.

Claims 5 and 11-13 have been amended to recite that the claimed catalyst has been gradually deteriorated during a long term continuous reaction operation to clarify the meaning of the term "reduce". The amendment is supported by the specification at page 5, lines 11-14.

Claim 14 is a multiple dependent claim reciting the embodiment where a gas containing a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound is passed through reaction tubes filled with a deteriorated